Virtual summit will present new evidence documenting country action towards universal health coverage (UHC), launch government commitments towards improving the health of women, children and adolescents, and galvanize a participatory approach involving all stakeholders to ensure we ‘do better’ during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond

WHAT: On December 11, a virtual summit co-hosted by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH), UHC2030 and the CORE group, will convene to take stock of how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the progress towards UHC commitments, and to exchange perspectives on how global stakeholders can, together, “do better” by our populations – especially women, children and adolescents - during and after this time of crisis.

The summit takes place one day before Universal Health Coverage Day on 12 December, which every year marks the anniversary of the first unanimous United Nations resolution calling for all nations to provide affordable, quality health care for all of their citizens. The theme of this year’s Universal Health Coverage Day is “Protect Everyone”, putting an emphasis on making sure no one, and in particular no woman, child or adolescent is left behind.

Up to 2000 delegates are expected to participate in the summit, bringing global policymakers, researchers, business leaders, health care providers and community representatives together to:
- Reflect on progress and challenges towards achieving country commitments for UHC and the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health in the context of COVID-19;
- Share lessons about what has and hasn’t worked during the crisis in the protection and expansion of health services, actions towards better health financing for UHC, the development of inclusive and participatory and multi-stakeholder platforms, and a stronger integration of gender equality and youth engagement into plans, policies and programmes;
- Collaborate to achieve inclusive and participatory governance driven by social participation, including through the meaningful engagement of women and young people;
- Act together to realize the United Nations High-Level Declaration on Universal Health Coverage (2019) and the PMNCH Call to Action on COVID-19 (2020), including launching political commitments to key COVID-19 Call to Action asks.

The Lives in the Balance summit builds on the very successful Lives in the Balance: A COVID-19 Summit, organized by PMNCH and the CORE group on 1-2 July 2020, which called on global leaders to commit to a seven-point action plan for improving and increasing investment in health systems and social protection policies for women, children and adolescents as the world rebuilds in the wake of the pandemic.

Lives in the Balance includes the launch of the following keynote reports and initiatives:

- The State of UHC Commitment: 2020 Synthesis (UHC 2030)
- Commitments to the PMNCH COVID-19 Call to Action
- Updated COVID knowledge resources including digital advocacy toolkits

Lives in the Balance 2 will feature moderated chats, live polling and entertainment performances, with simultaneous sign language interpretation and French/Spanish translation.
SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Rt Hon Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Board Chair of PMNCH
Graça Machel, Founder and Chair, Graça Machel Trust and the Foundation for Community Development
Loyce Pace, Executive Director, Global Health Council and US President Elect’s Taskforce on COVID-19
Abelone Melesse, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Ethiopia
Gro Harlem Brundtland, Global Pandemic Preparedness Monitoring Board co-chair, former Prime Minister, Norway; former Director-General, WHO

WHEN: 8-11AM EDT/2-5PM CET, Friday, 11 December, 2020, via Zoom and Livestream

Simultaneous sign language interpretation and French/Spanish translation

REGISTRATION: Details to follow

As a registered journalist, you will be able to take part in proceedings, receive updates, media releases and statements, and bid for interviews with key speakers and delegates.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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